



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

June 13, 2014

Dear Idaho Public School Principals,

Due to an increase in human trafficking cases in Idaho, the Idaho State Department of Education (SDE) has partnered with law enforcement and community awareness organizations to provide Idaho's districts with needed information and training.

Human trafficking defined in its simplest form is the trade in humans, most commonly for the purpose of sexual slavery or forced labor. Because human trafficking/slavery is more readily associated with the past and international cases, it is hard to fathom the existence of modern day slavery, especially in the United States, and moreover, Idaho. However, it does exist and local occurrences, which affect our youth, are increasing. In the United States, and Idaho, traffickers can be and are family members of the victim. ***This means that victims of human trafficking are students in our schools.***

Due to this growing epidemic, it is imperative that school counselors and educators receive training on:

- What human trafficking is
- What practices are prevalent in Idaho
- Which students are vulnerable
- How and by what means students are recruited and forced into human trafficking
- How to identify a victim
- What are the next steps and who to contact if a victim is identified

The Idaho State Department of Education training, ***Human Trafficking: Protecting Idaho's Youth***, provides counselors/educators with the aforementioned knowledge, thus decreasing the likelihood that Idaho's youth will be ensnared by trafficker recruitment methods. When conducting an annual review of your district's comprehensive policies and procedures in regards to safe environment and discipline, as required under IDAPA 08.03.03.105.160, consider including this training to meet the component requirements. This can be accomplished through funding appropriated for school safety improvements by the 2014 legislative session. For more information and access to the application to receive aforementioned funding, please visit, [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/safe\\_drugfree/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/safe_drugfree/). The application due date is October 17, 2014. However, we urge you to get your application in early; in that, funding will be distributed as applications are received and processed.

An archived recording of *Human Trafficking: Protecting Idaho's Youth* and training materials can be found on the SDE website at, [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/safe\\_drugfree/ht/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/safe_drugfree/ht/). The recording and materials can be used in the manner districts deem appropriate. The recording can be watched individually or as a whole group, or the provided PPT can be used in a group setting as well.

Please contact Nichole Hall, [nhall@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:nhall@sde.idaho.gov), if you have any questions or if your district or school would like a live training to begin the 2014-15 school year, with SDE staff and law enforcement. Please contact me as soon as possible in order to secure a date that will work for law enforcement.

Thank you for your attention to student safety and well-being,

*Nichole K. Hall*

College and Career Assessment Coordinator

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